

POINT THREE



The Toc H magazine May 1976 10p



POINT THREE

Editor : Sue McWilliam

Designer : Michael F Hill MSTD

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911) Opinions expressed (including the editorial) are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

Point Three is available from the Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks HP22 6BT (Telephone: 0296 623911) Single copies 10p; 10 or more copies sent to the same address 9p each. Annual subscription: £1.20 including postage.

Front cover : the world famous Brandenburg gate which stands in the 'no man's land' area of the Berlin wall. A Toc H mobile from the Berlin Services Club serves tea to troops here six days a week. See more about our work in BAOR on pages 3-5.



Toc H seeks to create friendship and understanding among people of all backgrounds and beliefs. Local group activities range from holidays for the handicapped and children's playschemes to arts festivals and even bird-watching. Toc H is short for Talbot House: the soldiers' club in Belgium founded by the Reverend 'Tubby' Clayton in 1915. Today Toc H provides opportunities for people to test the relevance of practical Christianity and we welcome anyone who would like to give us a try.

VIEWPOINT

Have you ever heard of Tic G? Tic G is a body of Toc H in-laws, who feel that they are on the fringe, who somehow have not caught the infection which has swept their husbands, wives or friends into the busy whirl of branch meetings, district executives, development teams, and training days.

Why Tic G? Well, why not? Tic G adherents say that 'Tic G' makes just about as much sense to a stranger as does 'Toc H'. For that matter, we might as well be 'Tango Hotel'. There is a small number of self-confessed Tic G members, but the actual number of people who feel rather out of it must be much greater.

Don't misunderstand me. I am a Toc H member; and I would not seriously ridicule the Movement. But I quote Tic G because I can see that we in Toc H are often in danger of creating an insiders' circle, with its own language of 'jobbies', 'pilots', and 'marks', and with its own ceremonies, ritual and resolutions.

Of course we love the familiarity of these well-worn customs, but we may be showing a marked lack of sensitivity to the stranger standing on the sidelines wondering what all this mumbo jumbo is about.

You may say that I am overstating the case, or that most of the 'in-laws' are not really interested in Toc H anyway. Perhaps. But we can hardly afford to be too careful about the tentative enquirer, the stranger, or the visiting speaker.

It is at least an act of courtesy to explain to the guest what exactly the Ceremony of Light is about, before we plunge him into utter darkness.

So if we need to retain our weird lingo — and we might as well realise that outsiders find it strange — we must at least be ready to explain it. Or better still, on occasion, put ourselves in the visitor's shoes and question seriously if this is the right time to hold the Ceremony of Light, or to read the minutes. I do not mean that we should dispense with our traditions wholesale, but merely suggest that there is a time and a place for everything. We are, in a very real sense, called to be 'all things to all men' and our ceremonies

Members accept a four-fold commitment:

1. To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man.

2. To give personal service.

3. To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others.

4. To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

and customs are meant to serve as help to our task, not hindrance.

Lord Baden-Powell used to say to his Scouts that the most important person at any meeting was the guest — and Tubby laid equal emphasis on hospitality.

The art of hospitality — and it is an art, although one which we can learn — is vital to Toc H. Not as a civilised veneer — we do not want everyone traipsing around being nice and polite to one another — but as a real means of making people feel at home and accepted for what they are. Good hospitality breaks down barriers so that a deeper and more real contact can be made.

While it is true that many branches still shine with tremendous warmth and welcome, it is also true that Toc H no longer welcomes as many strangers as it once did. There was a time when Tubby insisted that no meeting should take place unless there were new faces present. (He also said that chairs should never be placed in rows; it creates too formal an atmosphere and inhibits people from circulating.)

Society as a whole offers less home-spun hospitality these days, as people prefer either to go out or to switch on instant entertainment. Perhaps Toc H could make a valuable contribution here, and encourage the sharing of our homes and families — but in the kitchen, not the front room!

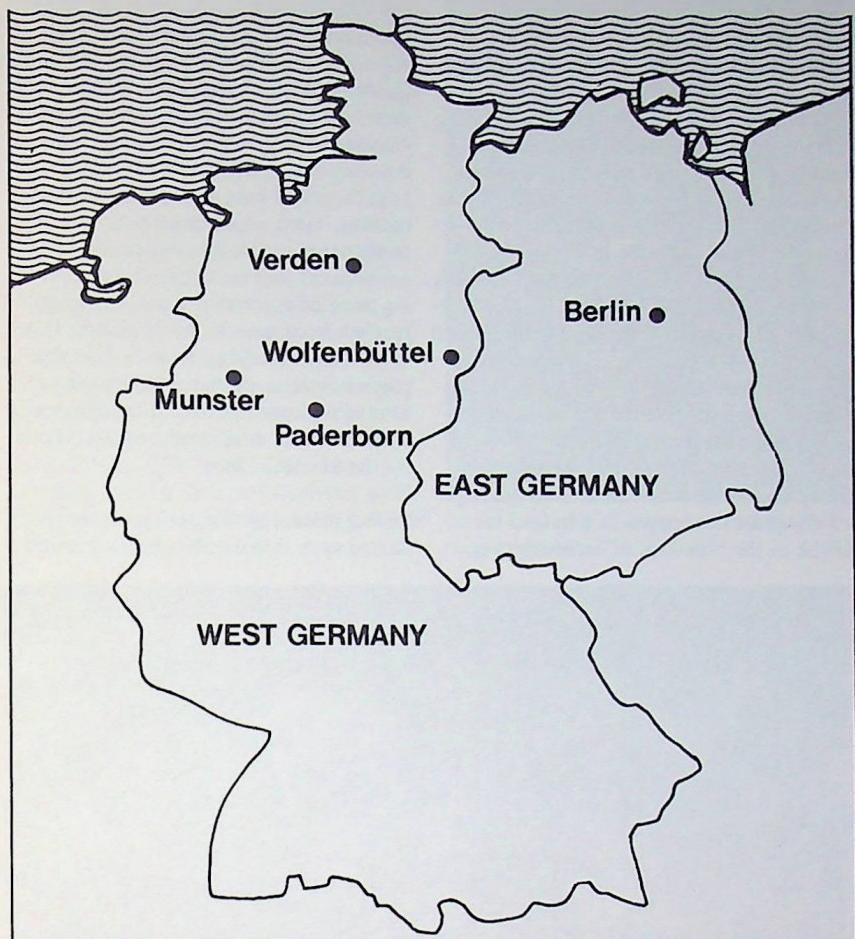
This sensitivity is important because we set ourselves up as a Movement of friendship. We also claim to be a Family. Yet so many of the things we do seem to divide our own families. The pattern is still very much for the husband or wife to go alone to his or her branch, certainly without the children. Well, perhaps that is the attraction! But several projects (such as the holiday weeks, music, painting and geology weeks, and summer camps) are encouraging families to take part together and in a society where the trend is increasingly for age-segregated entertainment, this 'family offer' may well prove a refreshing choice.

S McW

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points — to think fairly.

A look at Toc H in Germany

Ken Prideaux-Brunne records his impressions of the Toc H Services Clubs in BAOR.



Checkpoint Charlie : all thriller readers will know it as the cross-roads for world spies. Toc H mobiles serve tea here

Mondays to Saturdays. Spies are charged extra!



I had always felt that the work of Toc H in BAOR was something quite distinct from the work of Toc H anywhere else. In many ways, of course, this is so; but the strongest impressions of my first, whistle-stop, tour of the Services Clubs are the aspects of the work which are an expression of Toc H as we have always known and understood it.

In so short a visit — five Clubs in nine days — one can only hope to pick up fleeting impressions. I hadn't appreciated how far apart the Clubs are, nor how different they are. Our staff in Germany inevitably feel somewhat cut off from their colleagues in Britain, but I suspect they also, at times, feel cut off from each other.

Our first visit was to Paderborn where the Toc H Club is centrally situated in the town. It has a freshly-decorated and welcoming canteen, a well-stocked and busy shop and an attractive club room upstairs, which is temporarily out of action pending fire precaution work. What struck me at Paderborn — and the impression was reinforced at each of the other Clubs — was the friendly atmosphere in the shop. The customers obviously knew, and were known by, the staff. Toc H Services Clubs are big business, and they have to be run on an efficient and businesslike basis. At the same time they demonstrate that efficiency and friendliness are not necessarily incompatible. 'Toc H spells friendship' is a slogan that is as true of our Services Clubs as it is of any other part of Toc H.

Munster is the largest and most complex of the Clubs, with three shops in different parts of the city, as well as a mobile shop. This vehicle, which travels as much as 160 miles on its busiest day, provides an essential service to those living in married quarters several miles from the city centre. The main shop and canteen are in a thoroughly unsuitable building which could never be made as homely and welcoming as one would wish. However, a quiet room has been opened there as a place where people can come to be on their own for a little, where small groups can meet together and where the Toc H staff and the Army Chaplains can work more closely together.

Munster has a large and scattered British garrison. In Wolfenbüttel, by contrast, the army community is small and close knit. The Toc H Club, also, is small, with packing cases stacked in apparent confusion in the office, but it is infused with the warmth and friendliness of Bob and Elsie Peyton-Bruhl, the wardens. A party



Keith Rea, Commissioner



Hans Temmel, accountant



John Sowerby: the new Development Officer in BAOR. This is our first serious attempt to create Toc H groups within the army community. John has been warden of the Services Club in Paderborn for the past four years and has had close contact with the playscheme there. His starting point will be the local committees that have planned the playschemes and he will be trying to help them to see other needs that they might meet in their own communities: possibly baby-sitting rotas, visiting people in hospital, or stimulating various social activities. One of the happiest evenings during last summer's playscheme at Paderborn was occasioned by a bonfire at the married quarters, when neighbours were able to meet each other and enjoy themselves. A group which tried to promote social activities of this kind would be making a valuable contribution to community life. John will be based at Munster and will be particularly involved in the new playscheme which is being run this summer at the Senden married quarters several miles out of the city.

in the evening — at which my sons discovered their vocation in life as barmen — provided an opportunity to meet the senior army personnel. I was left in no doubt at all of the high regard in which Toc H is held in the army in Germany. Both the service we offer and the way in which it is offered are deeply appreciated.

The complex procedures involved in driving up the corridor to Berlin are a sample of the farcical nature of international diplomacy — but we must always remember that farce is preferable to tragedy. While we were in Berlin, Angus Laing, the warden of the Toc H Club there, took us to meet the British military policeman at Checkpoint Charlie. The poor man was half-way through an 11 hour day. He'd had one vehicle to check through so far, and thought there might be a couple more in the afternoon. The daily visit of the Toc H mobile, providing the opportunity of a chat as well as of buying a cup of tea and a newspaper, is a longed for break in the boredom of his existence.

The visit could hardly be justified on strictly commercial grounds but is obviously an essential service.

Our final stay was in Verden, where we had the opportunity of meeting Chris Launden, president of the Toc H playscheme committee, and her husband. The members of this local committee are not only already beginning to plan for next summer's playscheme, but are also discovering other ways in which they can act as good neighbours within the army community. Here we are back to an immediately recognisable Toc H situation and I am hopeful that we shall succeed in finding ways of encouraging and assisting further developments of this kind. It is worth remembering, however, that the playschemes could never have been started without the close relationships with the army developed over the years by the Services Clubs.

Sitting in on a staff meeting which discussed such things as buying policy and



Don't come too close! A police dog display was one of several diversions

provided by the army during the Paderborn playscheme.



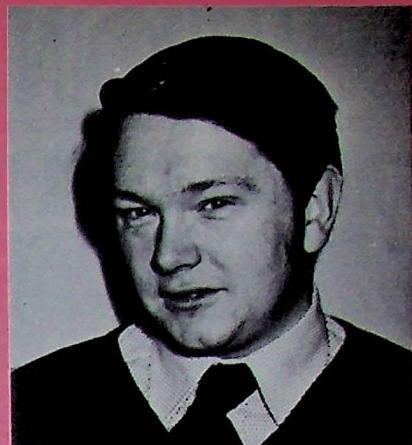
Unisex hairdressing. The club at Verden is stepping out with a special service for

Forces husbands and wives!

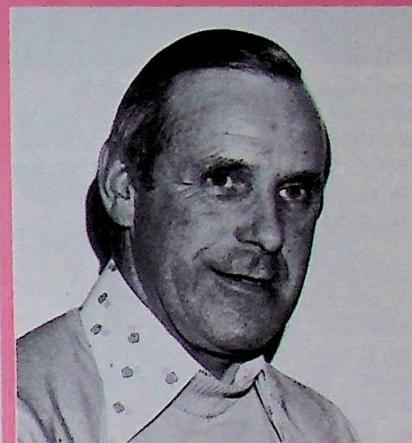
the delivery of goods, tossing initials about in true military fashion, I felt as though I was in an altogether different world. With a turnover of over £½ million annually our Services Clubs cannot afford to be anything less than a professionally run business; but after a week in Germany I was left in no doubt that they are more than that. Through the friendliness of the staff, through their willingness to provide a service on a basis of need, rather than on a strict assessment of commercial viability, and through the provision of opportunities for small groups to meet together, the Clubs are, in their own particular way, a demonstration of our conviction that people matter. And as a result of their work we now have the chance to follow up our initiative in launching playschemes by making a significant contribution to the development of the concept of self-help in a few army communities. The work of Toc H in Germany may be different from our work elsewhere, but the spirit which lies behind it is recognisably the same.



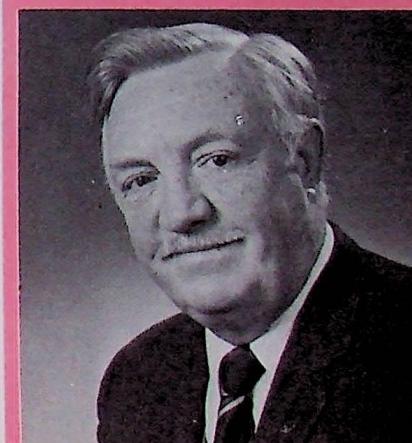
Wot a lot I got! Young customer in the shop at Verden



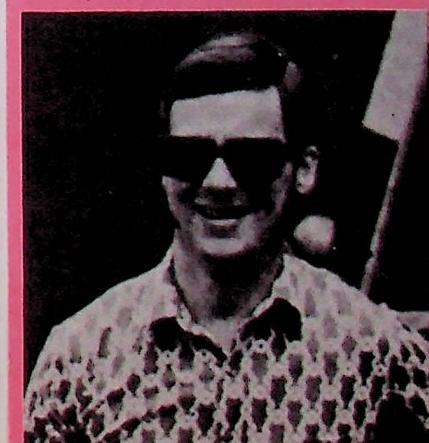
Len Harvie, warden at Verden



John Knight, warden at Paderborn



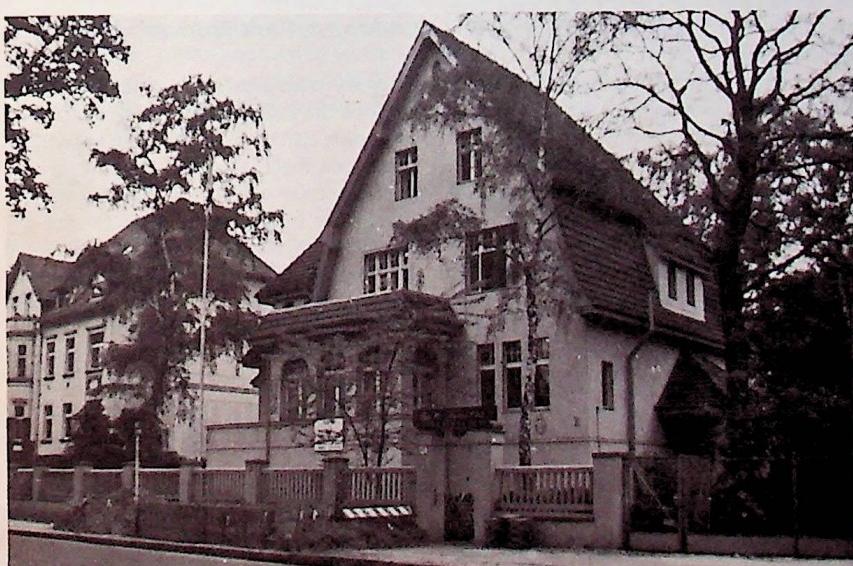
Bob Peyton-Bruhl, warden at Wolfenbüttel



Angus Laing, warden at Berlin



The end of a busy Saturday morning : Bob and Elsie Peyton-Bruhl (right) with their staff at Wolfenbüttel



The Berlin Club

NEWSPOINT

KNIT ONE, PEARL ONE POUND

Photo: Eastern Daily Press



Toc H East Anglia has just staged a mammoth sponsored knit-in — the biggest, they think, in history! Together with the NSPCC, Toc H branches have knitted their way through 8,000oz of wool and in one week have raised a total of £6,000!

From 22 - 27 March, needles were clicking in 53 knit-in centres all over Norfolk, and also in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Hundreds of members and friends were roped in to wind wool or knit blankets, and proved the point that if you can get good press publicity (and they were given, as they say, blanket coverage), and also the co-operation of enough people, your fund-raising cannot fail.

Toc H and the NSPCC worked closely together from the start and happily agreed to divide expenses and income. Our share (£3,000) is to pay for the Norfolk camps for needy children (featured in last month's *Point Three*), although the Norfolk Activities Committee is considering a donation to the Mid-Eastern Region. Olive Tennant, a member of that committee and one of the initiators of the knit-in, says that they feel it would be wrong to sit on a lot of idle money.

Olive takes up the story:

'We in East Anglia are seeing our way out of a very woolly situation.'

'Wool of many colours has surrounded me since Christmas, in fact nearly 8,000oz of the stuff! It all began way back last year when two or three of us met with some NSPCC members.'

'A sponsored knit-in was suggested, in and around Norwich — but that was just the beginning, and like Topsy, it has just "growed and growed".'

'Toc H branches, large and small, bless them, really pulled their needles out and got knitting, co-operating with the local NSPCC. Even people who had no previous connection with either organisation offered to knit, mostly in their own homes.'

'This event will have done much more than raise money. One organisation has happily worked alongside another,

Mountains of wool for Olive Tennant, Norwich Joint Branch member, and Sally Boldero (right) of the NSPCC. This wool was bought in one batch from a Yorkshire mill, so that every knitter started out with the same ply and quality. The rule was: size 8 needles, 20 stitches per row, garter stitch — and get knitting!

Photo: Eastern Daily Press



Yarn spinning — at a fair rate of knots! — are Bishop Aubrey Aitken, a long-standing member of Toc H, (right) and Bishop Kenneth Sansbury, chairman of the Norwich and Mid-Norfolk branch of the NSPCC.

people have met fresh faces, initially, I know, to raise funds, but Toc H members meeting other people cannot but help be a good thing.'

'It has also highlighted other needs: lonely people, people who want to help the community but who do not know how. Many, after reading our press reports, wrote or telephoned enquiring about Toc H and offering help.'

'Many laughs we have had, not least in the men's branches. I remember one member demonstrating how his granny used to wind wool on the floor — the ensuing tangle had to be seen to be believed! Another man suffered from inflation, as the number of stitches on his row increased!'

'But what joy it has given us to help organise this. The end result of the knit-in is blankets for the needy, funds for the NSPCC and Toc H, and new friendships which can only strengthen both organisations for the future.'

DOR KNAP

Most people who go to Dor Knap would probably agree that one of the loveliest things about it is its simple homely atmosphere: you certainly don't get the idea that it is a conference centre, but more a home.

Those who have cared for Dor Knap (and especially the Dor Knap Committee) have striven hard to keep it this way, to retain the charm of the old Cotswold house. Over the years they have had to turn away many offers of gifts for the house, gardens and chapel — otherwise, by now, you wouldn't be able to move!

To continue this policy, the Dor Knap Committee has agreed that unsolicited gifts are not accepted without the Committee's approval.

'We are terribly anxious that Dor Knap should retain its simplicity and particularly so in the Chapel. We do not want adornments in the Chapel, neither is it intended that the Chapel should become a memorial. We can appreciate that many folk and branches wish to make gifts to Dor Knap from time to time but we would respectfully ask that they submit their ideas to the committee for their consideration. If everyone respects this wish it is hoped to avoid hurting anyone's feelings.'

LA TOCH

Muriel Elliott
Chairman, Paris Women's Branch

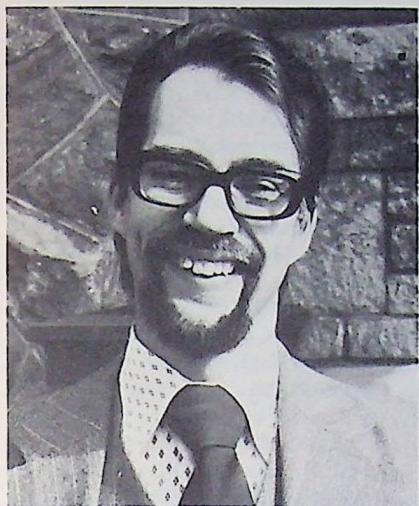
Since its foundation, one of the main concerns of the Paris Branch has been to care for senior citizens. In March the branch celebrated the 15th anniversary of unbroken service of monthly teas for some of its older friends, some of whom are long-standing British residents of Paris and others who married British citizens, in some cases during or after the First World War. At least one guest could claim to have been present at every one of the teas!

In addition to the monthly teas, a special annual event is the Christmas party. Last year it was held in the new English church of St Michael's and an outstanding feature of the party was the presence of Greta Lynn, International Secretary, who managed to fit in a visit after participating in the World Chain of Light Vigil at Poperinge.

WELCOME

MIKE PLUMB

Welcome to Mike Plumb who has joined the North Wales and North West Regional staff to concentrate on extending Toc H in North Wales.



34-year-old Mike comes from New Zealand, and is now the second New Zealander on the staff (the other being Jeff Bird). Mike left his small home town of Napier after school and came to England to train as a State Registered Psychiatric Nurse, working for several years in the National Health Service. Wanting to teach handicapped people, he took a teacher training course in Leeds seven years ago, and since then has been employed in education and social work. He taught in an observation and assessment centre, also acted as tutor to nurses at Rampton Hospital, and finally became warden of a training and resettlement centre for mentally handicapped adults.

Interested in rock-climbing, swimming and rugby (also English literature and chess) he would seem to have picked the right patch of the country in which to work. He lives with his wife and children near Chester. We hope they will be very happy with Toc H.

JIM WALTHAM

And welcome to Jim Waltham who will be working in Manchester and South Lancashire.

Jim comes to Toc H from the electrical engineering industry: he was recently site engineer on the Hunterstone nuclear power station. But, he explains, over the past few years, he has come to realise that he would really much rather work with people than with things. To broaden his scientific background, he decided to take an Open University degree course in social science, and has now completed the first year.



Jim has also helped to run the Latchford Methodist Youth Club, says he enjoys working with young people and likes to spend a number of weekends every year coaching local youngsters in the art of fly fishing.

A keen game fisherman and naturalist, he gives talks on natural history and conservation and has had a number of articles published on these subjects. He also enjoys painting and photography — when he has the time.

Married, with two children and living in Warrington, he is also modest and agreed only on suffrage to be featured in *Point Three!*

Good luck!

STAN WHITEHEAD

Welcome to Stan Whitehead, who has been appointed warden of the Colsterdale Centre from April to September this year. Tough as old boots, yet as gentle as a lamb; a born leader, yet the most loyal and dependable of followers; with the experience of age, yet so young in heart; at times a loner, yet the most affable of mixers; most cordial, yet rigid disciplinarian when required — perhaps one word suffices to sum up Stan — he is adaptable, to situations and to people.



With a B SC degree from University College, London, and a background of Civil Engineering with British Rail, the Ministry of Supply and the Admiralty, and with a rich variety of interests including Boys Club work, wandering round the world, and setting up his own FRAM Expeditionary group, Stan's main pastimes have been with any kind of outdoor pursuit. He is currently a member and adviser of the Toc H Birmingham Outward Group. His introduction many years ago to Toc H through Berkhamsted Branch has involved him in new groups, Boys Club activities and over recent years in Toc H projects.

Indeed a man for all seasons — the man for Colsterdale.

ROGER GOLDSMITH

Welcome to Roger Goldsmith who joins us as a long-term volunteer in Huddersfield after being involved with the Kent weekend projects group since its inception in Autumn '73.

Roger, who first came into Toc H through a girl friend who introduced him to a member of staff, worked for the Metropolitan Police civil staff in Scotland Yard before joining courts service at Maidstone Crown Court.

Apart from Toc H he is very busy with local church activities and youth groups, likes mucking about with cars and listens, in great volume, to all kinds of music.

We wish Roger the best of luck.

The following branches elected new members during March:

- 13 — Coningsby (j)
- 4 — Evenwood (j) Group
- 3 — Barnstaple (j), Crewkerne (j), Edgmond (j), High Brooms (w)
- 2 — Bexhill-on-Sea (j), Cleveland District Branch, Dolgellau (m), Dundee (j) Group, Fleet (j), Hackney (j), Morecambe (m), St Thomas-Exeter (m)
- 1 — Ashby-de-la-Zouch (m), Ayresome (j) Group, Charmouth (j), East Worthing (w), Glastonbury & Street (j), Glen Parva (w), Gloucester (j), Kirkby Lonsdale (w), Knowle (w), Leicester District, Lincoln (j), Llandudno Central (w), Morecambe (w), Moseley (j), Mundesley (m), North Bucks District, Norwich (w), Peterborough (m), Ramsgate (w), Rochdale (w), Thurrock (m), Wellington (w), Wigmore & Rainham (m), York (w)

A warm welcome to the 69 new members.

For a holiday with a difference

Take time by

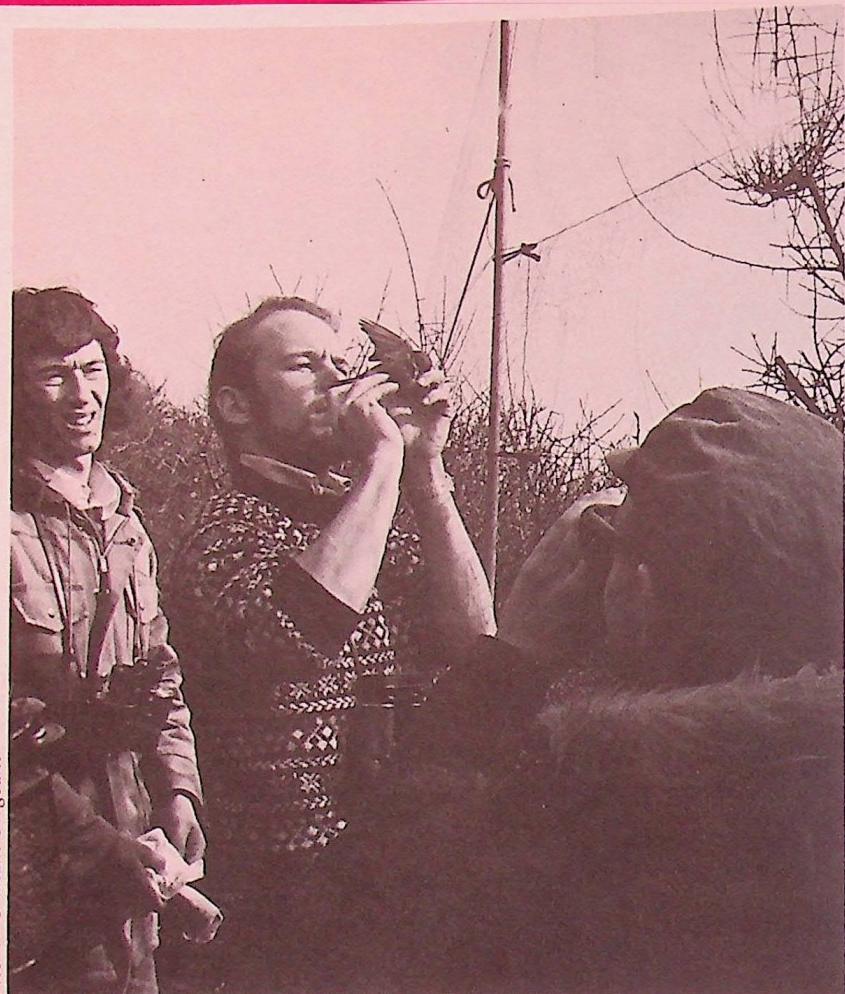


Photo: Graham Sergeant

The 'Dorset Coast in Sight and Sound' project visited the Portland Bill Bird Recording and Ringing Station. Here the

Oh what it is to stand and stare!
Birdwatching on the Fleet, behind Chesil Bank, February 1975.



Photo: Graham Sergeant

warden releases a greenfinch, having put a ring round its leg.

Marvelling at an ammonite, a fossil approximately 150 million years old, in the lower beds of a Portland Stone quarry: a group from the 'What made the earth?' project.



Photo: Crispin White

For some years now a number of people within the Movement have been trying to do just that — 'take time by the forelock' — and to discover ways of enabling people to enjoy all the beauties of the present moment. Three new projects have been developed, to give people the opportunity of studying their environment and sharing its natural, geological and historical delights with a group of friends. They are 'The Dorset Coast in Sight and Sound', 'What Made the Earth?', a geological study, this year of East Anglia, and 'Birds in the Belfry', an exploration into the historic places of worship in Norfolk, plus a look into the wealth of bird life in East Anglia.

'Birds in the Belfry' is booked up for this year, but places are still available on the Dorset Coast and East Anglian geology projects.

The Dorset Coast in Sight and Sound

'The Dorset Coast in Sight and Sound' will run from 15-22 May from the Othona Community House, a lovely homely place, near Burton Bradstock. Dorset has some of the finest coastal scenery in England and offers ample scope for bird-watching, geology, fossiling, photography, or simply walking along the shore. Visits to Portland Bird Ringing Station, Radipole Lake bird sanctuary, the Isle of Purbeck and the Fleet will be included, together with other places of interest.

Cost: £26.50, which includes full board and all travelling within the project. Further details from Keith Beck, 6 Whitmore Road, Taunton, Somerset. (0823 Taunton 81888).

What Made The Earth?

'What Made the Earth?' is not for expert geologists but for anyone who would like to do a bit of exploring in the company of a group of (new-found) friends. Two years ago this project took place — with much amusement — in Dorset and this year it's East Anglia. We shall explore the geological structure of East Anglia and its effects upon the scenery and on man's use of the land. We shall look at some of the glacial deposits in Norfolk and see how the glaciers swept across the land during the Ice Ages, and we shall see the wide contrasts between the Norfolk Broads and the chalk cliffs of Cromer and the drained wetlands of the Fens. We shall also find out how London gets a supply of drinking water.

You will be staying at the Diocesan Conference House at Horstead, near Norwich, in the heart of Broadland. Cost: £30 (plus £1 registration fee) which

the forelock

and seize the opportunity which this year's Toc H Summer Programme offers you.

covers full board and all travelling within the project. 28 August - 4 September.

Further details from Crispin White, 68 Thorpe Park Road, Peterborough. (0733 Peterborough 63686).

Camping with the Mentally Handicapped

If you feel like a special challenge, come to Somerset and take a holiday with some mentally handicapped folk. You would be offering them their only chance of a holiday this year, camping in tents on a private site at Compton Dundon, near Street, in the heart of the countryside. The patients are a mixed group of men and women, with psychiatric disorders or mental handicap.

It may sound rather daunting, but those who have taken part in this holiday before promise that it is great fun and immensely rewarding. All the patients are quite capable of doing most things for themselves and nurses (male and female) will camp with them for intimate care and control of medical treatment. Your role will be to befriend the patients, to guide and help them enjoy their holiday.

Mature volunteers would be very welcome and would have much to offer to make this a successful venture.

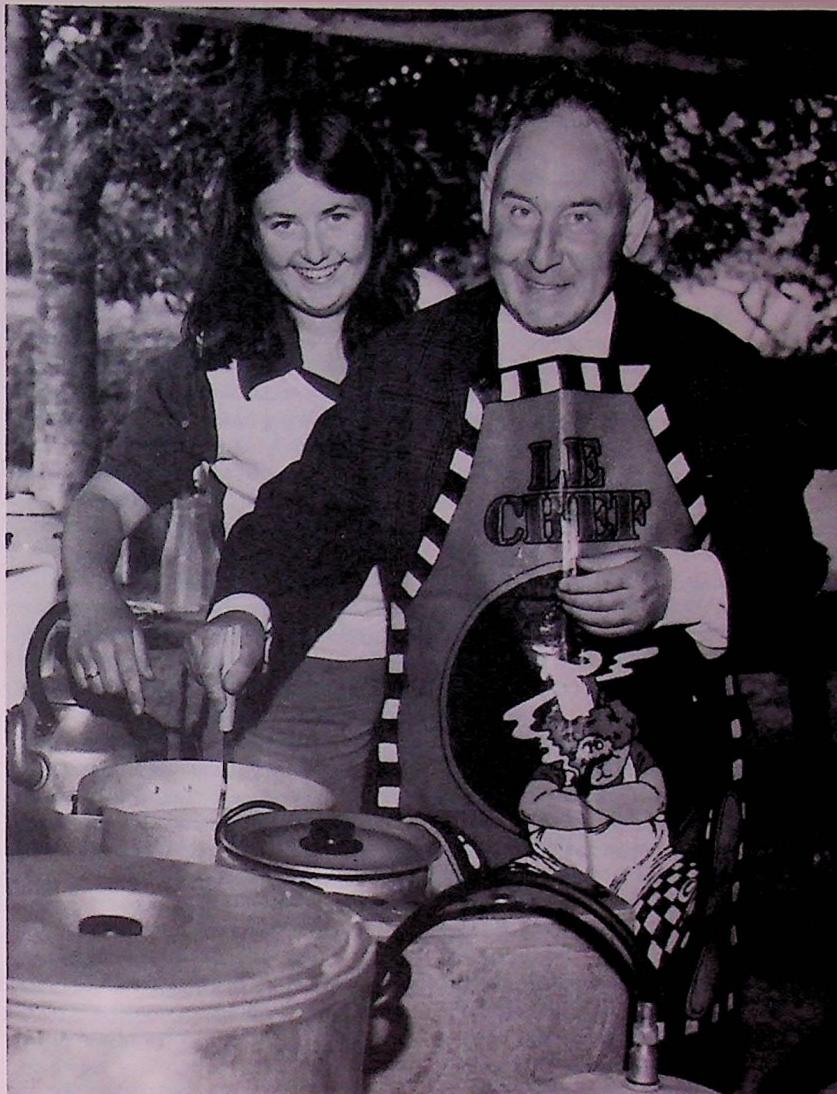
17 July - 1 August. £1 registration fee; no other charges (although you may be able to make a voluntary contribution towards the cost of food). Further details from Kevin Lindsay-Smith, 7 Melrose Place, Clifton, Bristol BS8 2NQ (0272-37283).

Stagenhoe Sue Ryder Home

What we want is men who can speak Polish! You are needed to go on a week's project at Stagenhoe: a Sue Ryder Home in Hertfordshire.

During the project the home will be filled with visitors from Poland, who have been selected individually by Sue Ryder because they suffered in concentration camps during the war. Many of them need constant medical treatment for injuries caused by experimentation and torture.

'One is always amazed by the courage, faith, dignity and cheerfulness of these survivors', comments the Sue Ryder Foundation. 'Each of them has endured the most terrible privations in notorious prisons, ghettos and extermination camps, yet, when they speak of their experiences, the absence of bitterness, resentment and self-pity leaves an indelible impression upon everyone they meet. Their ability to retain a sense of proportion and even to display a gay sense of humour is unforgettable and moving.'



Chef's special! Last year at Compton Dundon: Sue helps Ted prepare the soup.

The average length of stay varies from three weeks to three months. Many thousands still await a holiday when funds are available and the selection is decided after great care.

Apart from the holiday visitors, there are permanent residents who suffer from diseases of the nervous system.

Bob Wise and his fellow members from the Beds and North Herts District support the home in many ways throughout the year but this one week's work is seen as a concerted effort to assist the tireless nursing staff and to enable the residents to pursue their favourite activities: whether a day trip to the sea or a drink at the local. If you can camp it between 4 and 11 September and especially if you are a Polish speaking male, please contact Cheryl Wood at Toc H South Eastern Regional Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (01-709 0472). £1 registration fee only.

Dor Knap Summer School

'It is widely accepted that the Christian faith has political implications. This hardly needs to be emphasised at the present time and is not the point I wish to make — I am interested in perhaps the more contentious claim that the Christian faith, properly understood, is itself an act of political commitment.' So writes Dr Rex Ambler, lecturer in theology at Birmingham University. He will be leading the summer school at Dor Knap, Broadway, from Friday 2 to Monday 5 July. It is hoped that people with left, right and central sympathies will attend, so that there can be fair thinking and discussion.

Cost £12. Applications and enquiries to Rev Bob Knight, Hydaway, SOA Hyde Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 7DY or John Mitchell, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7BZ.

Photo: Brian Walker

Roped in and tied up

News from South Eastern Regional projects

What we're trying to do is prepare the younger generation for a fuller involvement in our Movement. Many people meet Toc H for the first time by going on a summer playscheme or camp. On these occasions one doesn't exactly want to pour Toc H theory down their throats but let's face it, they do have a right to know what it's all about. You can argue that by going on a Toc H project people experience Toc H — the spirit of fellowship and all that — but it is important to express this experience in words, to evaluate and enrich it.

The South Eastern Region considers the 'follow-up' of project volunteers a high priority. Of course, the districts are given names of their local volunteers and are encouraged to rope them into their activities. Members have found it particularly valuable to invite volunteers along to a branch meeting to talk on 'my first taste of Toc H' or to get a group of them together for a chat over coffee. It's a matter of sharing experiences, of learning and loving. The members have a duty to pass on their love of the Movement to these volunteers.

Each year a few of the volunteers who may be interested in further involvement are invited on training weekends. Philip Douch went on such a weekend in January.

Philip writes: "Leading a Toc H project" was the subject of a long weekend in Croydon for 15 lads and lasses who had been on projects before, at least as mere mortal volunteers, and who were now being broken in for the superhuman (sorry, ladies — superhuperson) role of project leader. Under the eagle eye of PC Carolyn (Lindon) and the protective wing of Cheryl the Peril (Wood) we looked at the nationwide structure of Toc H, its aims, the organisation necessary in preparing for projects and the responsibilities of leadership. But do not despair, dear reader, we did not allow the odd spot of seriousness to upset the Toc H spirit — indeed it seemed as if the organisers had foreseen the possibility, for 'pub' was actually time-tabled on the official programme of events!

'Anyway, we met at Crutched Friars House (where mysterious noises seemed to indicate we had unwittingly intruded upon the elephants' clog-dancing championships) and it was not long before the first example of inspired leadership was upon us as a four-vehicle convoy through London got separated in two minutes. Cheryl nobly sacrificed precious petrol to search London for a light-

coloured 1100 and eventually arrived at Croydon 20 minutes after the missing car rolled up!

'After grub, silly games were employed to break the metaphorical ice, and I will make no attempt to describe them since they will only sound even more questionable than they actually were. Needless to say they did the job and we were well and truly thawed out.

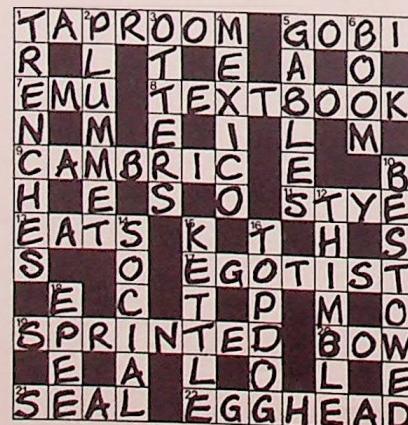
'On Saturday we heard about the district, regional and national set-up of Toc H (you see, I *have* learnt something) and marvelled at Rachel's rainbow glove socks: then spent several hours in two groups planning fictitious projects and pretending to be vicars, mothers, deflated social workers or Toc H members. Finally we split into three (not a pretty sight) and solved some insoluble problems that we might actually have to face on the project.

'Sunday morning was taken up by a talk on the Four Points of the Compass and group discussions on the roles Toc H can play in society. Come Sunday afternoon we were reluctant to split up and say our farewells.

'How did the weekend affect us? One participant had turned Japanese and another had expounded on the difficulties of crawling through square framed windows, but luckily the transformation was only temporary.

'Honestly though, as well as being a good laugh it was a very useful experience for us all, and Cheryl even wrote that "the quality of thought and discussion over the weekend was marvellous" — but then she was trying to get me to write this for her!'

APRIL CROSSWORD SOLUTION



LETTERS

JIGSAW NEEDLESS HEARTBREAK?

While keeping an open mind about the merits and demerits of the aims of 'Jigsaw', and realising that one cannot generalise on something which has so many 'fors' and 'againsts', the happiness and well-being of the adopted child must be the very first priority.

One of the 'agins' is the needless heartbreak and unhappiness it could bring and in some cases it would seem to be best to let sleeping dogs lie.

As an adoptive parent of 27 years, taking a little girl at a week old — now married and with three children of her own — I would like to show you something of the other side of the coin.

During a little discussion, my late wife broached this very subject and asked my daughter (then in her late teens) whether she was ever curious, concerned or unhappy at not knowing her natural mother.

She replied: 'Naturally, a little, but one thing I know for certain, is that God used another body to bring me to you, Mum.'

To how many adopted children this could apply I don't know, but to many natural mothers, it might help to lessen their fears.

Fred Swindells
Stockport, Cheshire

SUSPECT MOTIVES

I would take issue with the quotation that Trevor Sizer used at the start of his article, 'Fostering somebody's child', in March Point Three.

Many of the children who are either received into care or committed to care and placed with foster parents have never received any love, and cannot give love. Foster parents requiring instant reciprocal love have been totally unrealistic and I would question their motives for being foster parents. Deprived children can only give love after they have built up relationships and trust with their foster parents.

John Montgomery
Divisional Director of Social Services,
Plymouth, Devon

David Pope of Swindon, Wiltshire, writes to say that following February's Viewpoint on the Movement's responsibility in politics, Purton Branch has resolved to visit the parish council meetings as a branch.

WARMLY APPRECIATED

I am a soldier serving in Verden, West Germany, and I must admit before I moved here Toc H sounded like an American Servicemen's Club to me. During the past two years I have got to know my local Toc H quite well and realise what a valuable and useful part of the service community it is.

Our local Toc H is staffed by Len and Cynthia Harvie, a cheerful couple who are only too willing to be put out for the benefit of our community. They provide numerous raffles and whist prizes, presents for the family, newspapers, magazines and not a bad cup of coffee for the weary on the way home from the town to the quarters. They also play a large part in arranging for the Toc H playgroup leaders to come annually to Verden to take care of the children during the summer holidays.

I have written this letter for three reasons. They are: firstly, because until I arrived here I didn't know of Toc H. Secondly, until I read *Point Three* I did not realise the services provided by Toc H, and thirdly, so that other readers of your magazine are aware of what Toc H provides for the Forces and how very much it is appreciated.

WO1 A F Wilson BEM
Headquarters, 1st Division

ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP

In your January report of Central Council proceedings 1975 under the above heading, the editorial comment repeats the 'principle' which has somehow crept into Toc H during the process of crossing the 't's' and dotting the 'i's' of that notoriously vague and woolly document *Action for the Seventies*, ie 'that membership is a self-selecting process and does not depend on being judged worthy of entry in the eyes of others' (my italics).

When, and by whom, was this doctrine dreamed up? It falls very strangely on the ears of older members of Toc H and it is about time that it was examined further.

Admitting that the decision to become a member (of any organisation) is a personal choice, once having made that decision, the member becomes part of the organisation, subject to whatever rules and disciplines are necessary for the orderly conduct of its affairs.

To maintain standards, it is necessary that there should be, somewhere, some form of sanction. In Toc H this has been traditionally the test as to whether the member is 'in good standing'.

In nearly 50 years of membership, one remembers very few cases where this sanction has had to be invoked, and membership terminated, and then only after very careful and prayerful consideration; but the officers concerned had no doubt of the necessity of the sanction.

It must be remembered that the officers entrusted with this duty have themselves had to submit to the judgement of their fellow-members and have been 'judged worthy' of holding their positions.

Is it not one of the tests of Toc H (as of civilised life) that we are able to exercise authority with humanity and love and Fairmindedness?

Is it not also the test of Fellowship that we should seek and deserve to be 'judged worthy' by our fellow-members?

In days past branches had to be 'judged worthy' of achieving and maintaining that status and many of us thought it a retrograde step when the Visiting Team and the Guard of the Lamp were abolished. But now, if we accept *Action for the Seventies* as our guide, the branch is thought of so little importance, that it is not thought worthy of a mention.

One wonders what is the reasoning behind the new outlook that it is no longer necessary to be 'judged worthy'. Is it an attempt to make Toc H acceptable to those who find discipline a dirty word, and to attract those whose motive in life is 'to do their own thing'? Even for these, I am told, the 'in' word by which the worthiness of an undertaking is judged (that 'judged worthy' again), is that it is a 'challenge'. So surely then, they must be prepared to be challenged.

One is entitled to ask, how anyone can 'express his commitment', as the new phraseology has it, without including all the foregoing considerations. Are they not the embodiment of the principles of Toc H, which even the authors of *Action for the Seventies* still believe to be Fellowship, Service, Fairmindedness and the Kingdom of God?

Percy Bays
Exmouth, Devon

TOC H KNEELER

Bravo for Ethel Smith! and for her great effort in weaving the Toc H kneeler featured in February *Point Three*.

How grand if we could see such an example repeated in the several thousand places of worship? What fertile thinking could arise!

Ken Faggetter
Weymouth, Dorset

SITUATION VACANT!

How refreshing to read Colin Campbell's rejoinder in the March issue. It seems that under new management we are expected to become more and more flabby, sentimentally indulgent, and sanctimonious.

Indulgent in extending the same benefits to the undeserving as to the deserving. Sanctimonious in pretending that there are, in fact, no undeserving. And flabby in all our thinking on this and kindred issues.

I am sure that the vigorous, clear-headed and practical young men who founded this Movement would have been quite contemptuous of such an attitude; I believe 'Tubby' himself would have had more sense. And I feel that the general public, whose attention we are encouraged to invite to *Point Three*, would incline to dismiss us as just another bunch of indiscriminate 'do-gooders', were it not for the leaven of such as Colin, whose disclaimers they are fortunately (and very commendably) allowed to peruse.

Ron L Evans
Whetstone, Middlesex

STRENGTHEN THE GOOD THING

I should be grateful if you would spare me a little space in *Point Three* in which to pay tribute to Sue Cumming (Mid-Eastern Regional Staff) for the inspiring talk she gave to 35 members of Bakewell and Sheffield Branch in February.

Sue reviewed the projects for 1976, and some 'hopefuls' for 1977, and then went on to relate some of her personal experiences in a wide field of activities with disadvantaged people, and all that this implies. Her words carried such a depth of personal dedication, that we were left with a sense of renewed faith in a wonderful future for Toc H. We older members must 'strengthen the good thing' with our support and encouragement towards staff who answer the call, and work for God's Kingdom in the wills of men with such devotion and absolute integrity in the spirit of the Founders of Toc H.

Edwin Harrison
Bakewell, Derbyshire

Due to lack of space we regret that we can no longer publish the names of all those who kindly support the Toc H stamp appeal. Dennis Walker asks that if you would like an acknowledgement, please send him a SAE. Stamps of all denominations are still urgently needed and will be gratefully received by Dennis at 11 Sawley Close, Eastmoor, Wakefield, Yorks.

VIOLENCE

B D Brown

Everywhere one turns one is faced with reports of violence, particularly among the younger generation. Like many doctors we seem to be trying to cure the effects instead of the causes. We get the youth that we deserve, and it is through our corporate failings that they do not turn out as we desire.

Let us face the facts. All children are born animal, with animal instincts which they inherit, particularly that of self-preservation, ie selfishness. It is no accident that 'I' is the first person in all formal grammar.

Two things affect the behaviour of people: heredity and environment. Unfortunately we only inherit instincts and aptitudes. Kipling's Mowgli was not just a figment of the imagination but based on fact. Environment is on the whole an abnegation of natural instincts and the applying of a veneer of civilisation as we know and expect it. This implies obedience to the laws and regulations imposed by the majority of the community for the good of the whole and thus the individual good. The inculcation of these principles is part of education.

Education starts with the mother in the child's most formative years. I am a great believer in 'aura': that the spiritual presence is not completely contained within the body but in the area surrounding the body. It is in this aura that the baby feels secure: an essential for education. Some speak of the need for stricter discipline, by which they mean more punishment for offences against the norm. They forget the derivation of the word from 'disciple', a follower. The baby is a true disciple of the mother, under the influence of mother love. It imbibes the aura of the mother and learns from her, not only the material side of life, speech, cleanliness etc, but also a moral and ethical code by which to live.

How awesome is the parents' responsibility! The truth is that no one is good enough to be a parent!

The disciple absorbs the aura of the parents until it reaches school age, and what the parents are, the disciple becomes. Not that punishment is never used. The lioness growls and pats her cub if it steps outside the lion code of behaviour.

At school the teacher has to take upon herself the part of the parent. What a responsibility! Yet we insist on academic qualifications without regard to moral integrity and the ability to transmit

that moral code, which is such an essential in the education of future citizens. The idea of the pupil being a disciple should still persist until schooling is completed.

I started teaching in a down-town Church of England Elementary School in 1920 on the edge of a slum area. It was already nearing its centenary. Half the pupils came from the slums, real slums. The parents' education was Victorian. The pupils, though ragged and wearing mother's left-off boots, were the most responsive pupils I have ever had. The staff were a dedicated team of men. There was a little corporal punishment in the lower classes but in the upper classes it would have been unthinkable. Boys of 13 years were given responsibilities which would frighten the modern boy of 15.

To have run on a football pitch in those days was unthinkable. It wasn't done. It wasn't cricket. You never hit a man when he was down. Such expressions have disappeared. They used to be evidence of a boy's manliness.

In the early '30s psychologists came out with the idea that one must not curb the ego of the child. If the child wanted to hammer nails into the desk, give him the tools and let him express himself. Naturally teachers who sought promotion swung over like pendulum to the new idea to keep in the good books of HMI, and parents caught the infection.

In the '60s I went back on supply and had my first experience of secondary modern schools. I was appalled. In one the headmaster was so respected he was nicknamed by the pupils 'Scruff', the syllabi were pure eyewash and no effort was made to keep standards. In another, a female supply teacher, an MA, was in charge of a form of 15-year-olds. She was put over the desk and her bottom smacked by the boys. Incidentally she obtained a post as head of the English section in a large comprehensive school.

In my opinion the rot will spread deeper and deeper and children will become more and more unmanageable unless the clock is put back.

Education in the spiritual responsibilities of parenthood must be undertaken by the mass media. The general public must be made to realise that the unseen spiritual values in life can be more important than the material.

In the selection of candidates for the teaching profession more care should be taken over the moral integrity of the candidate. At present the only apparent concern is academic qualifications.

VIOLENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

the Family at risk

Violence assaults us from all directions. Radio, television, the national and local press give their daily outpouring of news of fighting in many parts of the world, of fighting and killing in Northern Ireland, of hi-jacking and kidnapping, of hooliganism at football matches and on football trains; news of the insidious violence of bombs, placed without knowing or caring about who they may kill or maim. In the social field we become increasingly aware of the violence of husbands attacking their wives, mothers attacking their children, children at a very early age acting in violent and destructive ways, and of juveniles attacking elderly people, bus crews, or seemingly anyone who gets in their way.

'Where will it end?' we ask. 'Where do we begin?' asked the WRVS, 'begin to understand and to help in whatever way we can.'

Last October the WRVS organised a conference with the National Union of Townswomen's Guilds on the subject of 'Violence in the community — the family at risk'. Over 100 organisations attended and Toc H was represented by Betty Cornick, then Chairman of the Central Executive Committee, and Joyce Green, Assistant General Secretary and our representative on the WRVS Advisory Council.

The conference had lined up an impressive range of speakers from the Magistrates' Association, WRVS, the National Advisory Centre on The Battered Child and the social services at Harrow. They all made it clear that while the statutory services are so overstretched, volunteers are badly needed to support professional work.

In particular, voluntary bodies are needed to help the woman alone and lonely, to provide advice and refuge for battered wives, and to support parents, who, under stress, may batter their children. Playgroups, 'drop-in centres', 'on-call services' and Mothers' Aid all help. But the greatest contribution which any volunteer can make is to offer simple caring, simple neighbourliness.

Keen to follow up the conclusions of the conference, local WRVS groups have started to set up 'stand-by services' of volunteers who are prepared to offer friendship and answer requests for help from the statutory services. WRVS will be working closely with local authorities and would welcome any co-operation which Toc H branches might care to give.

Voluntary work with the probation service

Sue Sutton

There are many opportunities for Toc H members to help the Probation Service.

At our Watford office Probation Associates, as the volunteers are officially known, involve themselves both individually and in groups on many projects: a Tuesday youth club in the waiting room, prisoners' wives groups, children's camps, art classes, help with reading difficulties, driving lessons, hospital and prison visiting, counselling, transport . . . the list goes on. Accommodation both long and short-stay, is always needed urgently in Watford and of course the new Community Service Orders are now involving some volunteers.

But essentially the use of the volunteer must stem from the need of the client. 'The client may not want a volunteer, indeed some people have seen it as an intrusion', says Charles Neill, one of Watford's senior probation officers. However he feels that volunteers are being used more now than ever before: 'Recently our volunteers seem to be obtaining more satisfaction in what they are doing. In many cases officers are incorporating their comments into official records.'

Individual casework and work in family situations can make strong personal demands on the volunteer who is working virtually alone and it is important to have a good supporting relationship with the officer involved in the case. As Mr Neill says: 'For volunteers and probation officers to work together there must be mutual confidence and this takes time'.

Regular group meetings between volunteers and probation officers at Watford provide opportunities to discuss the more general problems such as confidentiality, the involvement of one's own family etc; and provide a chance for officers to assess the volunteer potential available to them. This is important because the ultimate responsibility for matching volunteer and client rests with the probation officer. This is probably the crux of the whole situation: whether a volunteer can be brought in on a particular case and if so, is the volunteer the right man — or woman — for the job?

There are short courses available and the Hertfordshire Probation Service runs a course for voluntary workers together with visits to prisons, staff lectures and discussion forums, all of which add confidence in dealing with problems.

If you want to know more, contact your local office which will welcome your enquiry and probably invite you along initially for an informal talk. The work is demanding but it can be very satisfying for those seriously interested.

PRAYER OF ST FRANCIS

John Forbes concludes his series on the prayer of St Francis of Assisi.

Lord

*Where there is sadness, let me sow joy
Where there is darkness, light.*

Once there was a sad leper who all at once knew the indescribable joy of a warm, human kiss.

When St Francis turned aside from the pursuit of happiness to the pursuit of God he marked the occasion by embracing a leper. He had long nursed a fear of sickness and infection, so was this a dramatic gesture designed to overcome his repugnance for the leper's rotting flesh? Or was it that he felt it to be his Christian duty?

St Francis lived a life which few of us can emulate, and which most of us should not try to emulate. How then can we bring comfort to those who sorrow, and joy to those who in the eyes of society may be regarded as persons of little account? Many of us are inclined to melancholy; inclined to withdraw rather than participate, and there are those who are sometimes tempted to keep some, or most, or all, of their love and pity for themselves.

So let us first seek to be joyful! We have all experienced joyful occasions, reunions, blessings, achievements, and hope to experience many more. People have been known to shout for joy, dance for joy, weep for joy and sometimes even leap for joy; this is what happens on joyous occasions.

How wonderful it is, then, to be able to be the bringer of joy to others! As I write, the view from my window shows signs of a new Spring all around, and I would ask you to try an experiment. In May, (when you read this) endeavour to share the joys of the countryside and its wild flowers with one who is blind, describing them as you go. Simple things and small recognitions can bring disproportionate joy, and not only does one bring joy, one experiences joy in bringing it. When this happens, one has an experience of God which can only be called the sheer joy of instrumentality. The more we are used as instruments, the closer we come to a state of lasting joy.

'Let our unceasing, earnest prayer Be, too, for light — for strength to bear Our portion of the weight of care.'

So said Tennyson, and we come to our consideration of the prayer's supreme challenge: 'Where there is darkness, let me bring light.' Are the 'darkness — light' opposites synonymous with evil and good? Have you wondered why St Francis did

not pray 'where there is evil, let me sow good'? Wondering myself, I recalled those three puzzling words in the New Testament story: 'What is truth?' Goodness and truth are, surely, synonymous.

But when an Old Testament prophet tells me God created evil, I am out of my depth. Perhaps St Francis intended this petition to emphasise all that had gone before — the *darkness* of hatred, injury, doubt and despair — praying that he might be instrumental in directing some light on these situations. Light perhaps of understanding rather than amelioration: an understanding of hatred related to love, faith and hope.

Saul owed his conversion neither to true love, nor to true faith, nor to any other kind of truth. It was solely his hatred of the Christians that got him on the Damascus Road and to that decisive experience which was to change the whole course of his life. He was brought to this experience by following with conviction the course in which he was most completely mistaken.

Whether there is any truth (whatever truth is!) in these observations on what St Francis might have meant by 'Where there is darkness, light', I dare not say; you may have a clearer vision. I would rather return to the unanswered question of why he embraced the leper. The 'dramatic gesture' does not ring true, and that St Francis felt it his Christian duty, God forbid! Rather, it was a joyous recognition that he had found in him a beloved brother! In other words, equality (which is what all our earthly conflicts are ultimately about) resides not in the overthrowing of oppressors and the triumph of justice, but in the recognition that we are all members of one family whose father is in heaven.

St Francis's prayer magnificently concludes with the overwhelming promise that in giving we receive, that in pardoning we are pardoned, and in dying we are born again to life everlasting — a paean of love, and a pattern for life.

Lord

*make me an instrument of Thy Peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is sadness, joy
Where there is darkness, light*

Amen.

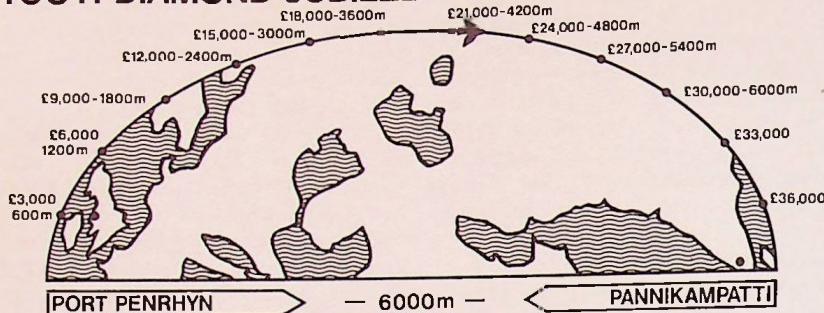
Instrument of Thy Peace by Alan Paton is published in paperback by Collins (Fontana Religious Books) price 30p.

NEWSPOINT

DIAMOND JUBILEE FUND - OVER £22,500

CROW FLIGHT CHART

TOC H DIAMOND JUBILEE FUND Raise-a-£5-Mile



IT'S CROWING!

We are eating up those 6,000 miles between Pannikampatti and Port Penrhyn in record time. The total of gifts and promises at 9 April is £22,500, or 4,500 miles, after only ten months of hard effort by members, branches and districts.

The sponsors of Don Lockhart's Himalayan Trek contributed £858 in response to his challenge to the Central Council. The promises include a grant of £5,000 from the Welsh Office of the Department of Education and Science towards the cost of furnishing and equipping the Port Penrhyn Centre and a grant of £500 for the same centre from the Build-

ing Industry Youth Trust. The Ministry of Overseas Development has already given £1,000 for Pannikampatti and a further £500 will be paid when the work is completed.

It is obvious from the daily post bag that many fund-raising schemes for the Fund are being promoted; the new appeal leaflet is being distributed with good effect. The summer months should provide plenty of opportunities for outdoor events and for members to maintain their personal efforts, so that our thanksgiving target for Jubilee Year can be achieved before the end of 1976.

AU REVOIR

With more than a hint of a tear we bid goodbye this month to a member of staff who has worked for Toc H for 28 years: Ken Rogers. Ken joined the staff as Bursar in 1948 from Guy's Hospital and the world of voluntary hospital appeals. He lost no time in organising appeals for Toc H, and started the popular Stock Exchange theatre nights, also reorganised the Builders department, dealt with properties and legal matters, and most recently acted as Diamond Jubilee Festival Secretary and Jubilee Appeal Committee Chairman.

But perhaps most of all, Ken will be remembered for the steady support and friendship he has quietly offered behind the scenes. We wish him a happy and peaceful retirement.

WEEKEND PROJECTS

Dig For Sendhurst: 30 April - 2 May and 21 - 23 May

Come on one or both weekends to dig a vegetable patch at a home for the mentally handicapped, near Woking, Surrey. Contact Mair Davies (Guildford 63064).

Newhaven: 7 - 9 May

Bring your laughter and energy to make this a special weekend for the physically handicapped residents at Searchlight Home, many of whom are Toc H members. Contact Paddy Tallant (Horam Road 2126)

Madhatters Tea Party: 7 - 9 May

If you're mad you've got to come along, to make fancy hats with the Hackney kids, and get them registered for the Summer playschemes. Contact John Burgess (01-985 4901).

NUTS IN MAY

There are still those among our membership who decline an offer to stay at Dor Knap because they 'like their comforts!' The impression that Dor Knap, the delightful centre in the heart of the Cotswolds, is still some kind of arctic retreat lingers on, although central heating has been installed for some years.

How many members know that over the past few years the main conference room has been entirely refurnished? How many have missed the unique combination of open air stage entertainment to a backdrop of the rolling Evesham hills? You have a chance to see all this and more if you visit Dor Knap on its Open Day on 31 May. The grounds are open all day until 5.30pm and you can picnic on the grass or visit the refreshment area.

About 300 people are expected, and entertainment will be provided by Aylesbury Drama and Operatic Society. This talented company has won much acclaim for its olde tyme music hall in Buckinghamshire and promises a rousing and memorable afternoon.

Dor Knap has become one of the most important centres in the life of Toc H with many non-Toc H parties also attending. So it isn't only nuts that go there now. By the way while you are there, ask Tommy to show you the skeleton that won't lie down!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

More volunteers are needed to help prepare for the Open Day. Any age, any sex! Come on Friday evening (28 May) until Monday evening (31) — and it will only cost you £8. Applications to Ged Bates, 24 Grove Avenue, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9RU or John Mitchell, Kyrle House, Edde Cross Street, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.



Photo: Isle of Thanet Gazette

The Toc H men's and women's branches in Ramsgate, Kent, donated a seat to the town to mark Jubilee Year. Seen here are the branch chairmen, Bess Dines and Dusty Miller with the Mayor of Ramsgate.

IN BRIEF...

■ Congratulations to members of Loughborough Joint Branch who celebrated their golden jubilee recently with a ball and a special service of thanksgiving.

■ Alloa Branch in Scotland has come up with the novel idea of a cut-price grocery shop, open every Saturday from 9.30 - 12.30. It is proving highly successful, especially for pensioners.

■ Shrove Tuesday did not escape the notice of Melton and Charnwood District, which held a pancake party at Thurmaston for about 100 members and friends. The annual pancake race (where branch teams run with cardboard pancakes on their heads) was won by Anstey men. Their prize: a frying pan trophy!

■ Conway Toc H, in North Wales, recently presented a concert at the Conway Civic Hall and raised £70 for Toc H funds.

■ Tom Bryant, chairman of Somerton, Somerset, Branch presented a plant and a greetings telegram recently to the oldest inhabitant of the town, Edwina Jones, on her 100th birthday. Somerton also held a service of rededication which was attended by over 100 members.

■ Tunbridge Wells Women's Branch, Kent, raised enough money during Jubilee year to present a Plymouth chair to the children's ward of the local Pembury Hospital, plus a donation to the Kent and Sussex Hospital Appeal Fund.

■ Phyl Whiteley writes from Morecambe, Lancs, to say their new Thursday Afternoon Club for lonely people is going very well, with about 30 members.

■ The Toc H Retired Men's Club, Iford, Dorset, now numbers 37 among its membership and has a lively programme including whist drives and coach outings.

■ One Sunday in March several members from Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, attended Morning Service at All Hallows-by-the-Tower, toured round the church and had lunch at Prideaux House, Hackney. They were impressed by the history of the church and suggest that other branches might like to visit it.

■ Although Wembley, Middlesex, Branch has closed, the jobs continue and the Wembley Toc H Blind Social Club run by Mr and Mrs Goodall celebrated its 30th Anniversary in March. Present were Dr Rhodes Boyson, MP for Brent North, together with Mrs Boyson, and the Mayor and Mayoress of Brent.

OBITUARY

KEN GANDY

We regret to announce the death of Ken Gandy, Dominion Secretary for Toc H New Zealand since 1963. Ken died on 25 February after a long illness. Joining the Movement in 1923, Ken was a member of Leicester and Watford Branches before moving with his family to New Zealand.

Philip Liner, Honorary Dominion Chairman, writes:

'As we remember with gratitude the life of Ken Gandy, my thoughts go back to our first meeting in September 1968. En route from England to New Zealand, with my wife, I had sent a note to the Honorary Dominion Secretary advising him that we were on our way but giving very little other information. Such was Ken's interest in Toc H members from around the world, and such was his dynamic approach to everything to do with this Movement, that he did some detective work, discovered the name of our ship, her arrival time and ports of call. At one of these, Perth, I think it was, we received a letter from Ken saying he was taking half a day off work, would be on the quayside at seven in the morning and would see us to our hotel. Not only did he do this but also a tour of the city, morning tea, and an introduction to a Toc H contact who had a carrier's business to move our baggage.'

'Bear in mind that up to that point we knew not one solitary soul in this country and you will realise how much we welcomed Ken's hand of friendship.'

'Stepping into many a breach at short notice, meeting visitors, keeping the Dominion Executive on the rails, there was Ken, hard at it in the name of Toc H. Without him, I feel sure that Toc H in Wellington and indeed throughout the country, would have had an even greater struggle to reach 1976.'

'But now Ken has left us to carry on, and the finest tribute we can pay to this man of action is to do just that and continue to expand and enhance the work of the Movement he loved so much.'



Photo: Bob Broeder

We regret to announce the death of the following members:

In December: S F 'Sally' Fletcher (Skegness)

In January: Chita Murdoch (Valparaiso), Frederick G Simpson (South Sussex District)

In February: John Atherton (Griffithstown), Ronald Chadwick (Accrington), Alfred T Davis (Abington), Daisy Dibbens (RHII), Daisy V Elkins (Ealing), H Ken Gandy (New Zealand), William R Inglis (Totnes), Percival Jarrett (Jamaica), Andrew T Lewis (South Sussex District), Lilian M Neal (Charmouth), Arthur J Neale (North Badsey), Beryl Pankhurst (Hatfield), Amy K Rawlings (Finchley & Whetstone), Sidney W Wright (Barnstaple)

In March: Eva Hudson (North Nottingham), Rose Lane (Milford-on-Sea), Phyllis Lofthouse (Scarborough), Albert Simmonds (Ashby-de-la-Zouch), Beatrice E Tollerfield (Charmouth)

We give thanks for their lives.

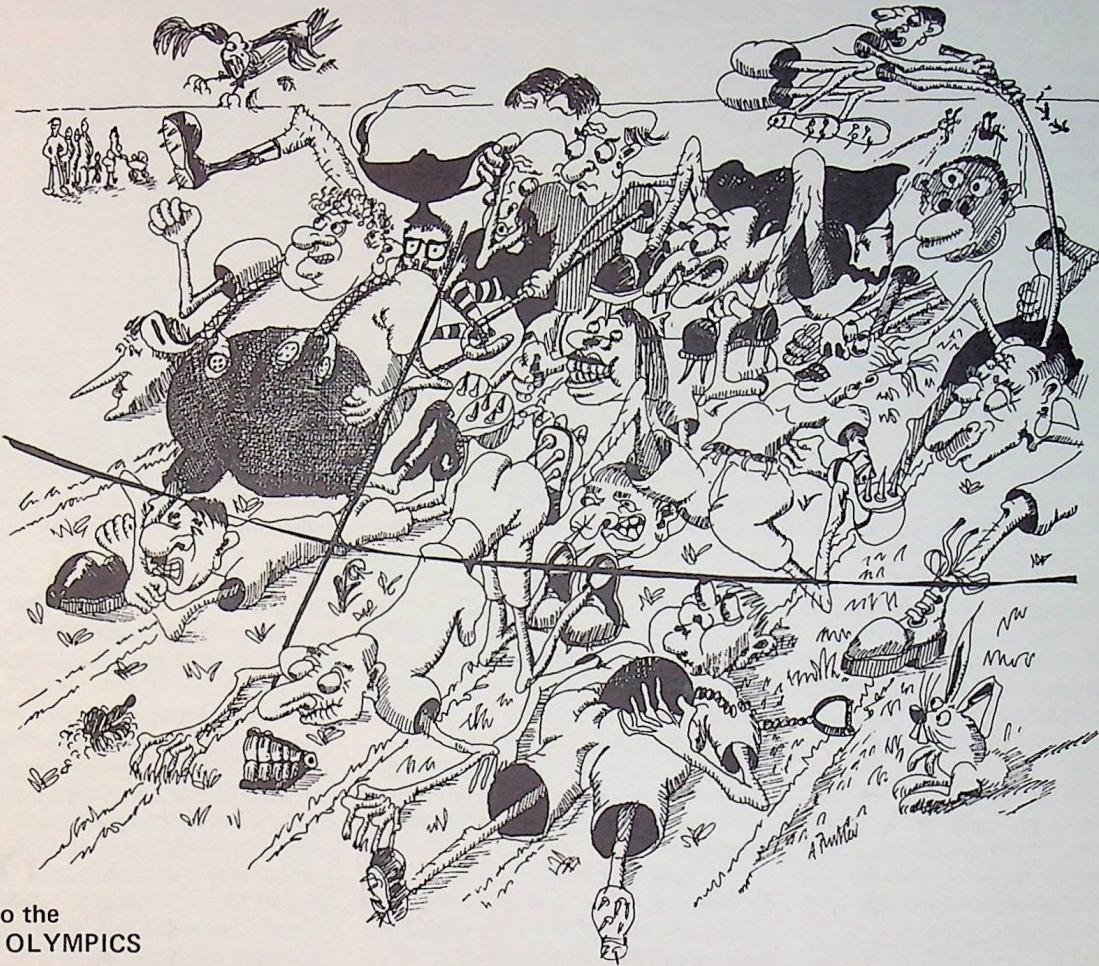


Photo: Walthamstow Guardian

Highams Park, North London, recently raised money for the Diamond Jubilee Fund by holding a concert. The branch invited the LCS Waltham Forest Band and

guest contralto Dorothy Barr, seen here with Horace Searle (left), secretary of Highams Park and John Anderson, musical director of the band.

Before Montreal... Battersea!



Come to the
TOC H OLYMPICS

Are you tired, apathetic, lazy? We've got just the thing for you! The Toc H Olympics for physical wrecks takes place at 3 pm in Battersea Park, London, on Saturday 22 May.

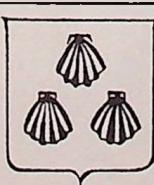
There's running, walking, jumping and shot putting events, plus some rather silly things for those who just won't take *anything* seriously.

All events are open to Toc H members, Marks residents and volunteers as long as they're not too fit; if you're feeling particularly energetic, however, do come as a spectator.

You'll have a great time, especially if you take part! Get your competitors application form from Andrew Batty, 16 Five-Acre Wood, High Wycombe, Bucks. See you on the 22nd!

SMALL ADS

Book now for a holiday at Warden Manor, historic manor house set in unspoilt country, near sea. Happy Toc H fellowship. Open Easter, Spring Bank Holiday, 3 July - 11 September; £17 - £20 weekly (children £14 + VAT, includes full board, four meals daily). All games (tennis, table tennis, putting etc) and entertainments are free. Contact John Cole, 4a Berridge Road, Sheerness, Kent.



Bruges, Belgium. Hotel Jacobs (established 50 years) welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of the coast. Comfortable, modernised hotel.

Quiet situation. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Bed and breakfast only. Mr Jules Lietaert, Hotel Jacobs, Ballestraat 1, Bruges 8000. Telephone: (050) 398 31/32.

Raise funds quickly, easily. Superb ball-pens, combs, key fobs, diaries, etc gold stamped to your requirements. Details: Northern Novelties, Bradford BD1 3HF.

In W Germany this year? Looking for a comfortable hotel, where language is no problem? Situated in beautiful, woody countryside? Quiet relaxing atmosphere, good food, comfortable beds. Then try us. Near the Lorelei, between Rhine and Mosel. Call or write: The Management, Hotel Hungenerhof, 3 Rhein-moselstr, 5401 Hungenerhof, W Germany. Tel: Pfalz 579 or in BAOR 06746-579.

Smiling Somerset Bed & breakfast. H & C. TV. Car space. Reasonable. Near M5 & A370. Mrs Joan Green, 'Mon Abri', Ebdon Road, Worle, Weston-super-Mare. Tel: 21957.

Devon: four-berth caravan (£12 weekly). SAE Oldnall, 23 Cedar Road, Bournville B30